

REMARKS

Claims 4, 12, 14, 15, 17, and 19-21 are pending. Claims 14, 17, 19, and 20 have been amended. Claims 13, and 18 have been cancelled. No new matter has been introduced. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

In the March 17, 2004 Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 13 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over each of Yasuhiro et al., (Yasuhiro, Japanese Patent Document NO. 04-228545, cited by the Applicants in the IDS submitted November 25, 2002, hereinafter the Yasuhiro reference) or Norio et al., (Norio, Japanese Patent Document NO. 62-112759, cited by the Applicants in the IDS submitted November 25, 2002, hereinafter the Norio reference). Claims 13 and 18 have been cancelled. The Examiner allowed claims 4, 12, 14, 15, 17, and 19-21. By this amendment, the Applicants have slightly amended claims 14, 17, 19, and 20 for reasons of form. The Applicants believe that pending independent claims 4, and 12, independent claims 14, 17, 19, and 20, as amended, and dependent claims 15 and 20, are in condition for allowance.

Applicants believe that the foregoing amendment place the application in condition for allowance, and a favorable action is respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 488-7100 to discuss the steps necessary for placing

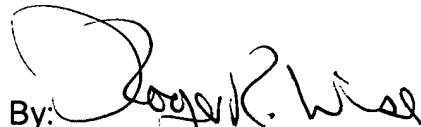
the application in condition for allowance should the examiner believe that such a telephone conference would advance prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

Date: June 8, 2004

By:



Roger R. Wise
Registration No. 31,204

725 South Figueroa Street, Suite 2800
Los Angeles, CA 90017-5406
Telephone: (213) 488-7100
Facsimile: (213) 629-1033